

March 14, 2013

Testimony of: Suzanne Binelli
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Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

My mother started shooting a shotgun competitively when she was 12. My father carried a gun in his backpack to his trade school in Manhattan. And my parents met at the gun club they both belonged to. I was raised in Greenwich, Connecticut... with guns.

We have several bills before us all today, none of which any of you can say with full certainty would prevent another Newtown or Aurora. Gun owners are not all evil, ignorant murderers, yet you are going to treat us as such because of the actions of a few who are. Gun ownership is a right that I have until the day I do something wrong that would then prohibit or limit my rights. But I have done nothing wrong.

I do not stand here asking you to do nothing about gun violence. But I am going to ask you how you plan on limiting the magazines that the criminals have? How do you plan on getting criminals to register their guns? How do you plan on stopping the black market that will now grow for ammunition as well as firearms? Which of these laws directly affects criminals immediately? How do you plan on housing all the new 'criminals' that will surface as the law abiding gun owners of Connecticut cannot meet the demands of the un constitutional and illogical laws you are trying to pass?

The bills as written do not directly address the causes of gun violence in this state in a way that does not infringe upon our Constitutional rights. It will allow the local authorities to subjectively decide who can keep their guns or not. It affects the firearms I would inherit from my mother. It is an invasion of my privacy. I have already been fingerprinted and background checked for the last 15 years of my life between being a bus driver and having a pistol permit. Now you need to suddenly count my bullets? I don't think so. Nor do you need to add more expense to the already high cost of living in this state. How much will liability insurance cost and how does one insure a Constitutional right? Why would I have to pay every year for my right to bear arms? I find it hard to believe that making us pay for our Constitutional rights is legal, and I assure you, it will be challenged.

It cannot be said enough that all you are doing is harming those who follow the laws.

I ask that you not pass any of the proposed bills until they are written in a way to reduce gun violence caused by criminals instead of violating the 2nd Amendment rights of the law abiding citizens of Connecticut, or punishing the firearm industry of this State.

Thank you..